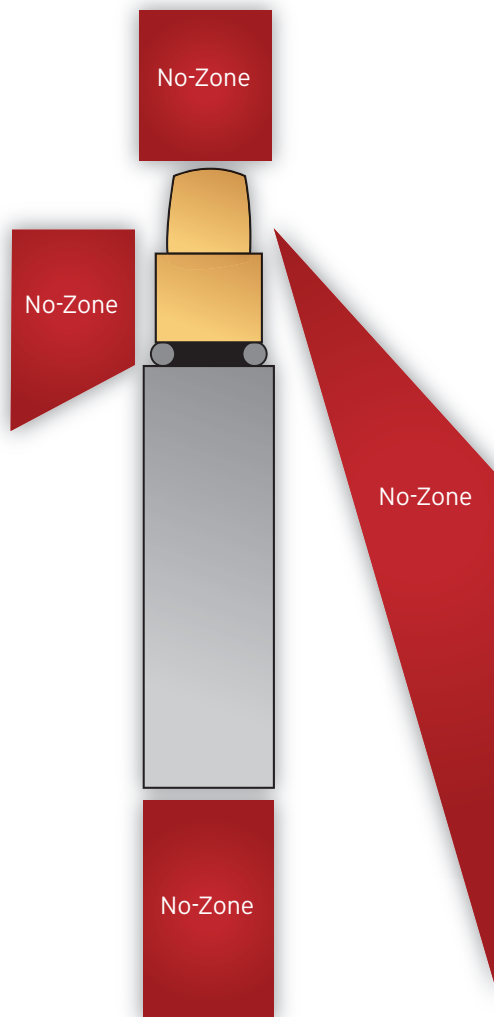




NO-ZONES AND BLIND SPOTS

The Key to Safer Highways: Know the No-Zone

Always know that semi-trucks create numerous blind spots due to their size and height. The truck driver has blind spots—or areas he can't see—in front of the cab, on both sides of the rig, and in the rear of the trailer. It is important that drivers of other vehicles who share the roadway with the truck are aware of these blind spots.



Side No-Zones

Trucks have extremely large blind spots on both sides. Truck drivers rely heavily on their side-view mirrors, which don't give them the entire picture, resulting in a highly dangerous situation if you find yourself in one of those areas.

Tips for avoiding side No-Zones

- Stay out of trucks' side blind spots.
- Keep both sides of the truck clear of traffic.
- Sometimes the need to pass the truck is unavoidable. When you do pass, don't linger alongside it.

Rear No-Zones

Truck drivers have no rear-view mirror and need to rely on their side mirrors to get a sense of what might be behind them. If you're behind a truck that brakes suddenly, you would have no place to go and could end up running into the back of it—or under it. Avoid drafting and tailgating and you'll reduce your chances of rear-ending the truck.

Tips for avoiding rear No-Zones

- Give trucks plenty of room behind them.
- If you find yourself driving behind a truck and can see the truck's side mirrors on both sides, you are at a safe distance behind it. If you can't see the mirrors then you are too close.
- Just because there is a space behind the truck doesn't mean you should cut directly behind it.

Front No-Zones

Because of its increased stopping distance, cutting as closely in front of a truck as you would a car may be the last mistake you ever make. In fact, it takes 320 yards to stop a 65 mph truck.

Tips for avoiding front No-Zones

- When passing a truck, never cut back in front of it then slow down.
- Allow a car's length for every 10 mph before merging in front of a truck.

Watch for wide turns

Trucks have a much wider turning radius than a car does so be aware of where they may need to go, especially in narrower urban environments. Close sidewalks, signs and utility poles, often cause trucks to cross the yellow line when making right turns, and the auto driver who is aware of this possibility is the driver who survives it.